

Amendments to the Claims:

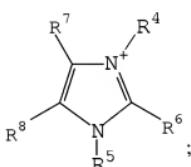
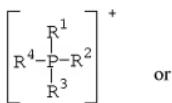
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims:

1. (currently amended) A compound having the general formula (I):



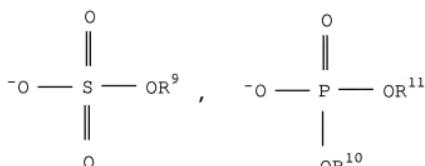
wherein

Q^+ is

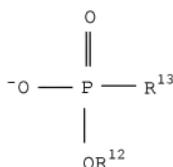


and

X^- is



or



and wherein:

each of $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}$ and R^{13} is independently a hydrocarbyl group;

each of R^6, R^7 and R^8 is independently a hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group;

with the proviso that:

- (i) when Q^+ is a phosphonium cation and X^- is a phosphate, or a phosphonate anion other than a phosphonate in which R^{13} is perfluorohydrocarbyl, then R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 each has three or more carbon atoms;
- (ii) when Q^+ is a phosphonium cation and X^- is [[a]] an alkylsulfate then the sum of carbon atoms in R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is greater than 4;
- (iii) when Q^+ is an imidazolium cation, X^- is not [[a]] an alkylsulfate anion;
- (iv) when Q^+ is a phosphonium cation, X^- is methylsulfate, and one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is methyl, the others of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 cannot be 2-cyanoethyl; and
- (v) Q^+X^- is not 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium dibutylphosphate.

2. **(previously presented)** A compound according to claim 1, wherein Q^+ is a tetralkylphosphonium and X^- is an alkylsulfate anion.

3. **(original)** A compound according to claim 2, wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are hydrocarbyl groups with three or more carbon atoms.

4. **(original)** A compound according to claim 2, wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are each n-butyl.

5. **(previously presented)** A compound according to claim 1, wherein:
 R^4 is methyl and R^5 is methyl; or
 R^4 is ethyl and R^5 is ethyl; or
 R^4 is n-butyl and R^5 is n-butyl.

6. **(currently amended)** A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of

- tri-(n-butyl)methylphosphonium methylsulfate;
- tri-(n-butyl)ethylphosphonium ethylsulfate;
- tetra-(n-butyl)phosphonium n-butylsulfate;
- triethyl-(n-butyl)phosphonium n-butylsulfate;
- tetrabutylphosphonium dibutylphosphate;
- tri-iso-butyl-butylphosphonium dibutylphosphate;
- N,N-dimethylimidazolium dimethylphosphate;

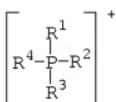
N-methyl-N-ethylimidazolium ethylethanephosphonate; and
tributylmethylphosphonium methyltrifluoromethanephosphonate.

7. (currently amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I):

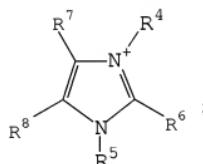


wherein

Q^+ is

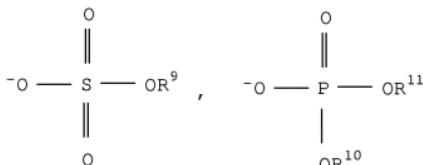


or

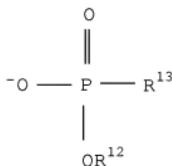


and

X^- is



or



and wherein:

each of $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}$, and R^{13} is independently a hydrocarbyl group;

each of R^6, R^7 , and R^8 , is a hydrogen or hydrocarbyl group;

with the proviso that:

(i) when Q^+ is a phosphonium cation and X^- is a phosphate, or a phosphonate anion other than a phosphonate in which R^{13} is perfluorohydrocarbyl, then R^1, R^2, R^3 , and R^4 each has three or more carbon atoms;

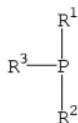
(ii) when Q^+ is a phosphonium cation and X^- is [[a]] an alkylsulfate then the sum of carbon atoms in R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is greater than 4;

(iii) when Q^+ is an imidazolium cation, X^- is not [[a]] an alkylsulfate;

(iv) when Q^+ is a phosphonium cation, X^- is methylsulfate, and one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 is methyl, the others of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 cannot be 2-cyanoethyl; and

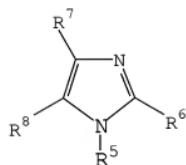
(v) Q^+X^- is not 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium dibutylphosphate

the process comprising reacting a compound of formula (II):



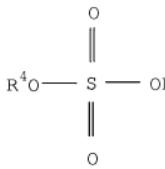
wherein each of R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 is independently a hydrocarbyl group,

or formula (III):



wherein R^5 is a hydrocarbyl group, and cation of R^6 , R^7 and R^8 is independently a hydrogen or hydrocarbyl group,

with a compound defined by one of the following formulae:



(IV)

(V)

(VI)

wherein each of R^4 , R^9 , R^{10} , R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} is a hydrocarbyl group.

8. **(original)** The process of claim 7, wherein the reaction is carried out in the absence of solvent.

9. **(previously presented)** The process of claim 7, wherein Q^+ is a tetralkylphosphonium and X^- is an alkylsulfate anion.

10. **(original)** The process of claim 9, wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are hydrocarbyl groups with three or more carbon atoms.

11. **(original)** The process of claim 9, wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are each n-butyl.

12. **(previously presented)** The process of any one of claims 7 to 8, wherein
(a) R^4 and R^5 are both methyl; or
(b) R^4 and R^5 are both ethyl; or
(c) R^4 and R^5 are both n-butyl.

13. **(currently amended)** The process of claim 7 or 8, wherein the compound of formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of

tri-(n-butyl)methylphosphonium methylsulfate;

tri-(n-butyl)ethylphosphonium ethylsulfate;

tetra-(n-butyl)phosphonium n-butylsulfate;
triethyl-(n-butyl)phosphonium n-butylsulfate;
tetrabutylphosphonium dibutylphosphate;
tri-iso-butyl-butylphosphonium dibutylphosphate;
N,N-dimethylimidazolium dimethylphosphate;
N-methyl-N-butylimidazolium dibutylphosphate; and
N-methyl-N-ethylimidazolium ethylethanephosphonate; and
tributylmethylphosphonium methyltrifluoromethanephosphonate.
